

MINUTES  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MONDAY, APRIL 21, 2008  
7:00 p.m.

To Commence after Joint MLAB and Light Board Meeting  
Boardroom  
Belmont Municipal Light Department  
40 Prince Street  
Belmont, MA

I. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Board was called to order in open session at 9:16 PM in the Boardroom of the Belmont Electric Light Building. All members were present. Town Administrator Tom Younger and Assistant Town Administrator Jeff Conti were present.

II. QUESTIONS FROM TOWN RESIDENTS

There were no questions.

III. ACTION BY CONSENT

Chairman Firenze explained that Town Counsel has ruled that only the Chair of the Board can be a voting member of the Warrant Committee. A designee of the Board can attend but cannot vote.

In light of this, the Board moved: To rescind its vote to appoint Ralph Jones to the Warrant Committee.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

Chairman Firenze reported that the teachers' union and the police union are suing the Town over the Board's decision to move forward unilaterally with health insurance plan design and PPO split changes. Counsel will be reviewing this.

Chairman Firenze and Mr. Younger will negotiate regarding Mr. Younger's salary for his annual performance review.

Committee assignments:

The Board agreed that Selectman Leclerc will be the Board's liaison to the Human Rights Committee, Chair Firenze to the Permanent Audit Committee, and Selectman Jones to the Local Emergency Planning Committee.

Town Meeting Proclamations: The Board agreed that Selectman Leclerc will read the proclamation for Selectman-emeritus Paul Solomon, Selectman Jones will read the proclamation for the late Liz Norris, and Chairman Firenze will read the proclamation for retiring Moderator Henry Hall.

The Board discussed Article 20 of the Warrant regarding Cushing Square. The Warrant Committee and Capital Budget Committee have both voted unanimously to recommend the article be dismissed as unlikely to pass. Chairman Firenze said he strongly disagrees with this advice. Selectman Leclerc said he supports the Article but feels the neighborhood needs a cooling off period, and suggested that this would be better put off until the fall. Chairman Firenze said the developer has agreed to go through the Planning Board process and should not have to conduct additional negotiations on top of that process. He feels that if the article is dismissed or defeated, the developer will move forward with a less desirable project on the area he controls.

Selectman Jones said he does not think this will pass and it will either be dismissed or defeated. There was discussion.

The Board agreed that Chairman Firenze will try to meet with the three neighbors who have been vocal with their concerns, and try to obtain their agreement to withdraw their objections with the understanding that the Board will take their concerns into account when negotiating with the developer. If this is possible, then the Board will support the Article.

The Board discussed the issue of funding for a Comprehensive Plan. The Board agreed to support the appropriation of \$50,000 for professional services and the Selectmen's Office will work with the Planning Board to specify exactly how that money is to be spent.

The Board adjourned at 10:51 PM.

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Administrator

Thomas G. Younger, Town